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Hewlett-Packard Company
Legal Department Intellectual Property Section
International Filing Manager
P.O.Box 272400, M/S 35
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400
United States of America

US ACTION

DUE DATE 6 Jan 2005

HP LEGAL
IPA

IDS EP SRCH ✓

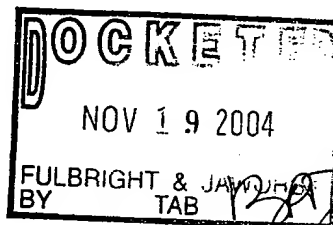
19 October 2004

Our ref: SP/N12922 ✓

Your ref: 10011666-3 ✓

Dear Sirs,

Patent Application in Europe No: 02256958.6
Worm Magnetic Tape System



We enclose a copy of the search report just received, with a copy of the earlier documents cited.

In accordance with our standing arrangements, we will shortly be studying the most relevant "X" category documents and recommending any necessary amendments to the claims. So that this study is comprehensive, please would you **IMMEDIATELY** review the files of this invention and provide us with a copy of any very pertinent prior art of which you are aware. It will also be helpful to receive a copy of any commentary already available, e.g. the relevant parts of a response to the U.S. Patent Office. We will go ahead with our study in one month's time. Amendments to the claims can be filed now, and if filed quickly they may be published with the original claims.

When the application is published, we will send you a copy of the printed document.

For the Application to continue it will be necessary to pay a fee for further examination. This can be paid any time from now until six months after publication takes place, and we will remind you of this again later.

In the absence of positive instructions, we will take no action to amend, or to pay the fee for the time being.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAMS POWELL

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European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 25 6958

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	EP 0 594 450 A (SONY CORP) 27 April 1994 (1994-04-27) * abstract; claims 1-9; figures *	1-10	
A	EP 0 362 561 A (GRUNDIG EMV) 11 April 1990 (1990-04-11) * abstract; figures *	1-10	
A	US 5 978 546 A (ABE HIROYA ET AL) 2 November 1999 (1999-11-02) * abstract; claims 1-4; figures *	1,2,10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 29 September 2004	Examiner Declat, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (Pct/C01)

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European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 25 6958

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 12, 3 January 2001 (2001-01-03) -& JP 2000 268443 A (SONY CORP), 29 September 2000 (2000-09-29)	1-8,10	G11B15/07 G11B15/02 G11B23/04
Y	* abstract; figures *	9	
L	-& US 6 674 596 B1 (TAKAYAMA YOSHIHISA) 6 January 2004 (2004-01-06) * abstract; figures * * column 1, line 12 - column 2, line 56 * * column 5, line 23 - line 42 * * column 17, line 19 - column 21, line 19 *	1-10	
Y	----- GB 2 305 535 A (COLESNIC MIRCEA MICHAEL) 9 April 1997 (1997-04-09)	9	
A	* abstract; figures * * page 1 - page 2 *	1-8,10	
A	----- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 22, 9 March 2001 (2001-03-09) -& JP 2001 135000 A (HITACHI LTD), 18 May 2001 (2001-05-18) * abstract; figures *	1-10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G11B
A	----- PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 01, 28 February 1995 (1995-02-28) -& JP 06 302049 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD), 28 October 1994 (1994-10-28) * abstract; figures *	1-10	
A	----- EP 0 621 593 A (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 26 October 1994 (1994-10-26) * abstract; figures * * column 1, line 11 - column 2, line 58 * ----- -/--	1-10	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 29 September 2004	Examiner Declat, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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06 OCT 2004

Datum/Date

06.10.04 ✓

FILE

A/C'S

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

SP/RD/N12922 ✓

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°

02256958.6-1239- ✓

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Hewlett-Packard Company

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1, 3

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 25 6958

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

29-09-2004

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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